

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7 and ending on page 7, line 1 as follows:

The at least one attachment structure 8 may be used to secure the floatation apparatus 2 to the object 9 (e.g., may be a wall or top rail of swimming pool 10 in FIG.4, a boat, a dock, etc.) to prevent the floatation apparatus 2 from floating away from the object 9. The at least one attachment structure 8 may be physically attached to a surface of the floatation apparatus 2. The at least one attachment structure 8 may comprise a hooking device 47 and a strap 49. The hooking device 47 connects the strap 49 to the floatation apparatus 2. The hooking device 47 may be any hooking device known to a person of ordinary skill in the art including, *inter alia*, eye bolts, hooks, etc. The strap 49 may be any strap known to a person of ordinary skill in the art including, *inter alia*, a bungee cord (e.g., made of any synthetic material such as, *inter alia*, elastic), a nylon zip tie, a lock tie, a tie down, a utility strap, rope, etc. The strap 49 may comprise hooking or latching devices including, *inter alia*, a bolt snap, a trigger snap, a spring snap, a breeching snap, a carabiner, etc. The floatation apparatus 2 may be used as a floating platform to support an animal 25 (see FIG. 4) over the body of water. The animal 25 may be, *inter alia*, a pet dog, a pet cat, etc. The buoyancy structure 6 may be any buoyant structure known to a person of ordinary skill in the art including, *inter alia*, an inflatable buoyancy structure, a hollow tubular (e.g., using polyvinylchloride (PVC) tubing) buoyancy structure, a polystyrene buoyancy structure, etc. The buoyancy structure 6 may comprise any buoyant material known to a person of ordinary skill in the art including, *inter alia*, plastic, PVC, polystyrene, wood, etc. The platform structure 4 may comprise any material including, *inter alia*,

plastic, wood, PVC, fiberglass, etc. The floatation apparatus 2 may additionally comprise a bowl structure 17 mechanically attached to a top surface 19 of the platform structure 4. Alternatively, the bowl structure 17 may be recessed within the top surface 19 of the platform structure 4. The bowl structure 17 may be used to hold a supply of food and/or drinking water for the animal 25 (e.g., a pet dog, a pet cat, etc.) on the floatation apparatus 2. The platform structure 4 may be perforated to allow liquid (e.g., water) to drain through perforations 21 and off of the floatation apparatus 2. Each perforation 21 may be circular in shape and comprise a diameter of less than about ½ of an inch. Alternatively, each perforation 21 may comprise any closed (i.e., border on all sides) polygon including, *inter alia*, square, triangular, etc. The term "removably attached" is defined herein including in the claims as a temporary attachment of a structure that does not require the use of any tools to attach or remove (e.g., using clips, locking pins, hinges, cotter pins, etc). The floatation apparatus 2 may additionally comprise a membrane structure 32 removably attached to a bottom side 34 of the floatation apparatus 2. The membrane structure 32 may be used to capture any liquid (e.g., water) draining through perforations 21 so that the liquid does not enter the pool. Alternatively, the membrane structure 32 may be used to filter any liquid (e.g., water) draining through perforations 21 so that the liquid is filtered before it enters the pool. The floatation apparatus 2 may additionally comprise a ramp 37 removably attached to any section of the floatation apparatus 2. The ramp 37 comprises a platform 38 and a buoyancy structure 39. The ramp 37 provides a walkway from the perforated platform structure 4 to the water that the animal 25 (see FIG. 4) may transverse to enter and exit the water. The buoyancy structure 39 provides support for the ramp 37 so that the ramp does not become submerged under water during use (e.g., when the animal 25 steps onto the ramp to enter or exit the water). A

plurality of buoyancy structures (e.g., buoyancy structures **43** and **46** in FIG. 2 and buoyancy structures **59**, **60** and **61** in FIG. 3) may be attached to the floatation apparatus **2** to increase the buoyancy (e.g., to support a heavier load) of the floatation apparatus **2**. The floatation apparatus **2** may comprise a shading structure **51** for providing shade for the floatation apparatus **2** by blocking the sun from irradiating the floatation apparatus **2**. The shading structure **51** comprises a shading device **22** attached to a resilient member **23**. The shading structure **51** may be any shading structure known to a person of ordinary skill in the art including, *inter alia*, an umbrella, a canopy, etc. The shading structure **51** may be removably attached to the floatation apparatus **2**. Alternatively, the shading structure **51** may be removably attached to the object **9**. An optional barrier structure **55** may be placed around a perimeter of the platform structure **4** to secure the animal **25** (see FIG. 4) within the perimeter of the platform structure **4**. The barrier structure **55** may be removably attached to the platform structure **4** and/or the buoyancy structure **6**. The barrier structure **55** may be any barrier structure **55** known to a person of ordinary skill in the art including, *inter alia*, a fence, netting, a dog house, etc. The floatation apparatus **2** may additionally comprise decorative lighting devices **57**. The decorative lighting devices **57** may be attached to the buoyancy structure **6** in FIG. 1. The decorative lighting devices **57** may be placed anywhere on or within the floatation apparatus **2**. The decorative lighting devices **57** may be any decorative lighting devices **57** known to a person of ordinary skill in the art including, *inter alia*, fiber optic lighting, incandescent lighting, florescent lighting, halogen lighting, etc. The decorative lighting devices **57** may be powered using a battery(s).